

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. MODERATE — .375 mile. Short loop from inn to foot of hill, along Donaldson branch and lake, and return up the hill to the inn.
- 2. MODERATE — .5 mile. Connects village parking area to picnic area, boat docks and Nature Center.
- 3. RUGGED — 2.5 miles. Long loop trail which one may enter near the Donaldson parking lot; pass Donaldson Cave overlook, then through dense woods past sink holes; past Bronson Cave and on to Twin Caves; through virgin timber of Donaldson Woods Nature Preserve then and return to Donaldson picnic area .
- 4. RUGGED— 2 miles. Loop trail may be entered from trail 4 at picnic area or junction of 1 and 4 near inn; goes by Donaldson Cave, and Hamer Cemetery; to village.
- 5. MODERATE — 1 mile. Loop around lake. Follows lower section of lake from bridge around to boat docks; near 2 which leads to the picnic area and parking area.
- 6. ACCESSIBLE — .25 mile. Paved trail that is a loop around the Virgil I. Grissom Memorial.
- 7. EASY — 1.75 miles. Loops through and around Oak Ridge picnic area and ties into Trail 4 between Hamer Cemetery and the village.

Stagecoach Trail — Rugged — .5 mile. Follow old road bed from Village up hill to Oak Ridge picnic area and playground.

HIKERS PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

Bicycles to be ridden on paved roadways only!
No Skate Boarding or Inline Skating.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BOATS — Privately owned boats may be launched on lake. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than two twelve-volt batteries are allowed.

CAMPING — Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy limited to two weeks. Electricity, modern restrooms, hot showers, and dumping station available. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

CAMP STORE — Located near campground entrance. Open April through October. Film and supplies for sale.

CAVE TRIPS — Boat rides in Twin Caves are available from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The ride goes approximately 500 feet into the cave and turns around. Several interesting features may be seen on this tour. During heavy rain periods the caves may be too flooded to offer tours. Tour times are set each morning. It is recommended to arrive half an hour before caves open.

FISHING — Bass, bluegill, trout and other small game fish. State license required.

GRISSOM MEMORIAL — A feature of the park is the Virgil I. Grissom Memorial which is a tribute to America's second man in space. Gus Grissom was a native of nearby Mitchell, Indiana. His space suit and Gemini III space capsule are on display. Open daily all year. No admission fee.

HIKING — With miles of moderate to rugged trails, hiking is one of the most popular activities at Spring Mill.

INN — Open all year. All rooms have a private bath, telephone, color T.V., air-conditioning. Dining room is open to all park visitors serving a complete menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Indoor/outdoor pool and full conference facilities available. No pets allowed. Reservations are available through the Inns Reservation System.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Inquire at inn, park office, or nature center. Scheduled programs include hikes, cave tours, history talks, junior naturalist program, and evening programs. Available all year. Groups wishing programs solely for their group should call in advance. Program schedules are available on the website at www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/ or call (812) 849-4129.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times. Pets are not allowed in the Pioneer Village.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited.
- Park closes from 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM, and no one is allowed in the park except for campers using their sites between these hours.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

PICNIC AREAS — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

PIONEER VILLAGE — Grist mill in operation April through October. 20 log cabins are available to look at with various interpreters available April through October. Pioneer log houses, Village store, apothecary shop, shoemakers, tavern, distillery, weavers, meeting house, pioneer garden, carpenter and blacksmith. **No Pets in Village.**

SADDLE BARN— Trail rides offered. Hayrides available in evenings. Inquire at saddle barn, April through October.

SWIMMING — Olympic size pool with bathhouse and wading pool; open the Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day. Swimming is not permitted in other areas of the park.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.



OPEN ALL YEAR
Rooms Available
Dining Room Open to the Public

Information toll free: 1-877-977-7464
Reservations: **1-877-lodges1**
(1-877-563-4371)
Online: **www.indianainns.com**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Spring Mill State Park
Box 376
Mitchell, Indiana 47446
Call: (812) 849-4129

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.IN.gov/dnr

INDIANA

SPRING MILL STATE PARK



Spring Mill State Park offers the visitor many historic and natural wonders. The Pioneer Village, with its massive water-powered grist mill, is a unique chance to step back in time. Various pioneer crafts and occupations are represented. The Hamer brothers took ownership of the village and mill in 1832. Spring Mill became the new name for the village. Repairs and reconstruction were initiated in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Other projects of the CCC included Spring Mill Lake, various shelters, roads and trails.

Natural areas are featured at Spring Mill in three nature preserves: Donaldson Cave, Donaldson Woods and Mitchell Karst Plain nature preserves. George Donaldson came from Scotland and purchased a tract of forest in 1865. He did not allow cutting of timber or hunting. Thanks to his efforts we now have native trees over 300 years old in the preserve.

Inside the Donaldson Cave ecosystem are the northern blind cave fish. These fish are an endangered species! Prairie plants may be found in several locations through out the park. Controlled burns each spring help to renew these ecosystems so that they may bloom again in late summer. Wildlife in the park includes whitetail deer, coyote, red and gray fox, raccoon, skunks, wild turkey, great blue herons, kingfishers and wood ducks.

Another attraction at Spring Mill State Park is a memorial to Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom located adjacent to the park gate. The museum houses the Gemini III capsule and spacesuit plus many other items related to Grissom and NASA .

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!